



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BENNETT HELPS BUILD HOMES FOR FUTURE HOMEOWNERS

Habitat for Humanity and senators join hands to combat poverty

****Video of build and senator's comments available by satellite after event****

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) today enthusiastically joined Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and others as they put their words to work to help future homeowners and building partners complete walls for two houses in Washington, D.C..

"Homeownership builds a strong economy, strong neighborhoods and strong families," said Bennett, a member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. "While homeownership in Utah is at its highest levels ever at 68 percent, we must do better to meet the needs of working families who are still left out of the housing market because of high costs. Experience has shown that government alone, or any one group cannot solve the problem. We must work together, and this is a great example of how it can be done."

"Currently I am working with Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Utah to put this resolution into practice in our own state. Later this spring we will work to build a home for a single Utah mother and her daughter," Bennett added. "This family is already building their sweat equity in the Habitat for Humanity program and is excited for the groundbreaking. I look forward to working with them to raise the walls that will eventually become their very own home."

Senate Resolution 319, cosponsored by Bennett and authored by Sens. Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Bob Graham (D-FL), unanimously passed the Senate last year encouraging senators to implement programs in their home state to build decent affordable homes for low-income families. Nationwide the goal is to provide everyone with a decent home in which to live.

Bennett applauded the work of Habitat for Humanity which functions under the principles that self help housing is a hand-up not a hand-out. Sweat equity homeowners make an investment in their home of their own labor and homeowners

purchase the house they helped build at a no interest, low cost mortgage created through partnerships with financial institutions.

Habitat for Humanity International, founded by Millard Fuller, along with his wife, Linda is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year of helping communities to overcome poverty housing. Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliates in more than 2,000 communities in 76 nations have built and sold more than 100,000 homes to partner families with no-profit, zero-interest mortgages. Currently there are nine chapters of local Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Utah.

Many of Utah's financial institutions are partnering with Habitat for Humanity and this Utah family to provide all the resources needed to make this program work. National building partners of The Houses the Senate Built are Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Mortgage Bankers Association, National Association of Home Builders, Council of Federal Home Loan Banks, and the National Association of Realtors. Other sponsors include the Mortgage Insurance Companies of America, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Corporation for National Service.

Video portions of Senator Bennett's work at the build and comments about the program will be available this afternoon at the following coordinates:

4:00-4:15 p.m. eastern, 2:00-2:15 p.m. mountain
Telstar 6
Transponder:8 Horizontal
Downlink: 3860
Audio: 6.2/6.8
C-Band

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